

## Crafts Galore at Holiday Faire

Plan to do your holiday shopping at BART's annual Holiday Faire on Friday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Plaza and LMA-1 areas of BART Headquarters. BART employees will showcase their art and culinary talents with homemade jewelry, baked goods, clothing and other handicrafts — all for sale for your gift-giving pleasure. For more information on the Holiday Faire, contact Vicki Wills at 464-7115.



## Fredo the Police Dog Passes On

Officer Fredo, one of the first German Shepherd's placed into the BART Police Department's reformed canine program in 1990, died in October from cancer. He was 10-1/2 years old.

He entered the program at age 3, according to Commander Gary Gee, as Fredo von Schwarzen Gold, born in Germany. He was teamed with owner-handler Officer Sallie Palmer, who is now retired from the BART Police Department, and he served with distinction until late 1993. BART employees may remember Fredo and Sallie together on a poster (shown above) where they were pictured on a BART station platform under the slogan, "Partners on Patrol." Fredo also took a solo performance on the poster, "Officer Fredo. In Full Uniform."

"They were a dedicated team and per-



formed in an exemplary fashion," said Gary. "Sallie has gone on to become a professional dog trainer, continuing her love of dogs."

The canine program is "real good for our department's image," added Gary. The police force includes four canine officers who are "a valuable asset to fighting crime and to enhancing how the public perceives the police." **ba**

**25 Years with BART:** Several BART employees were saluted recently for reaching the quarter century mark with the District. Congratulations to (first row, kneeling, left to right): Robert Aceituno, Darryl S. Antilla, Thomas E. Fowler, Ramon Medina, Miguel Rodriguez, Epic Perea, Howard Standish and Gary Crawford. We also tip our hats to (back row, left to right): Henry DeSantos, Robert Hamilton, John Kerwin, Clinton Story, Donny Davis, Mark G. Friesen, Jose Sepulveda, Ronald Celaya, Kenneth Sherman, Cynthia Held, Evan Konjicija, Leslie M. Azevedo, Larry Zeigler, Doris Smith, Angie Bonifacio, James Brown, John Flaherty, Randall McCluney and Mike O'Neill.



# Fall League in High Gear

The BART Bowling League hosted a singles tournament in San Leandro on October 25, celebrating Halloween with close BART friends. "It's a great pastime," says league coordinator Andy Williams. "We hope more BART employees and their family members will join us as we bowl through the holiday season."

The October tournament was held at the Manor Bowl in San Leandro, a popular spot for BART bowling tournaments. Congratulations to High Game winners Johnnie Hicks (240) and Beverly Carson (237), and High Series winners Elly Divino (637) and Suzanne Hicks (625). The "top five" honors for the October tournament went to Johnnie Hicks, Elly Divino, Harry Straub (629), Suzanne Hicks and Beverly Carson. Congratulations also to fellow BART bowlers James Bonds, Andy Williams and Dick Jann.

The singles tournament is played using the handicap system, "so everyone has an equal chance for a high score," says Andy. Players receive a credit based on the average score for the

three games played at the tournament, with 210 for men and 200 for women, e.g., scores at those levels and above don't receive a handicap. Andy keeps track of scores and handicaps for each tournament, "so your handicap will change each time, based on the average score for games played at this tournament and for all games played during the season," he notes.

"We're all warmed up now for the rest of the Fall and into the Winter," said Andy. "Take time out as we enter the Holiday Season and join us to celebrate Thanksgiving with a great bowling game." The next tournament is scheduled for 3 p.m., Saturday, November 22 at the Brunswick Delta Bowl, 3300 Delta Fair Blvd. in Antioch (just across from County East Mall and next to the Kaiser Permanente medical office facility). The fee is \$20 and includes three games, cash prizes and wonderful fellowship. "Everyone is invited to come bowl with us," says Andy. For more information on the BART Bowling League, please call Andy at ext. 5153 or Beverly Carson at ext. 4206. **b**



## Cleo Gilky and Harvey Gentry Fondly Remembered

BART employees, family and friends are fondly remembering two employees who recently passed away, Cleo Gilky and Harvey Gentry. Both were transit vehicle mechanics and had retired from service at BART.

Cleo Gilky retired in December 1993 after working at the Richmond Yard since 1972. He had previously worked for Southern Pacific for more than 20 years. "He began here the same day I did," recalls Cliff Payne. "He was a very nice individual, not very outspoken, but a real nice guy to work with and very pleasant." Cleo died from heart failure and is survived by his wife, Lilli May, and daughter, Stephanie. His goddaughter Diese Evans works in Transportation. "I miss him very much," says Cliff.

Harvey Gentry retired in September 1990 from his job at the Concord Yard. He had worked at BART since May 1959, one of the District's first employees. He is survived by two sons who work at BART, Dave Gentry, who works graveyard as a mechanic at Concord Yard, and Richard, who works in Buildings and Grounds. Harvey passed away a couple of months ago. Harvey spent a lot of time fishing and in a bowling league, says Don McGrath, who worked with Harvey and recalls, "He was an all-around good guy and everybody's friend."



## Congratulations to the New Daddy!

Wallace Tang, who recently joined BART as an Auditor-Special Investigations, is the proud papa of a baby girl, Ashley Jodie Tang, who was born to Wallace and his wife, Liliana, on October 20 at 8:49 p.m. Little Ashley weighed in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18-1/2" long. Everyone in Internal Audit congratulates Wallace on his first child.



## New Arrivals?

Have there been any new arrivals lately in your family? If so, we'd like to know and share the news with our BARTalk readers. Call us with the particulars on ext. 7115. **b**



# Scholarships Awarded by Local 790



**T**he BART Chapter of SEIU Local 790 has presented five scholarships to children of BART employees, under the annual BART Ernest Dugas Jr. Memorial Scholarship program. Each award is for \$500 for four years, or \$2,000. Scholarships were presented to:

## *Tanisha Fernandez*

Daughter of Transit Vehicle Mechanic Robert Fernandez, who works at the Hayward Shops. Tanisha graduated from St. Joseph's Notre Dame High School in Alameda and is attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a major in Biochemistry.

"She was fortunate to receive the scholarship," said Robert. "It was nice for her to be acknowledged and get assistance."

## *Jessika Green*

Daughter of Transit Vehicle Mechanic Michael Green, Sr., who works at Concord Shops. Jessika graduated from Antioch High School and is attending Los Medanos College, majoring in Child Psychology.

Jessika, who will be 19 in December, is the second child of Michael to receive a scholarship from Local 790. His son, Michael, Jr., 22, received a scholarship and is attending LMC and Diablo Valley College while working as the head wrestling coach at Antioch High School. "Thank you," says Michael, "for helping my children to pursue their success."

## *Julie Iken*

Daughter of Transit Vehicle Mechanic Mel Iken, in component repair at the Hayward Shop. Julie, 18, graduated from Logan High School in Union City and is attending UC Santa Barbara, studying math and science. She is also on the UCSB swim team.

Julie was named the female athlete Scholar of the Year at Logan High School and received a \$250 scholarship, which she is using along with the 790 scholarship to pay for her studies at UC Santa Barbara. "I think the 790

scholarship program is a great incentive for BART employees and for their children," says Mel. "It shows them that good grades and hard work are important."

## *Valerie Lim*

Daughter of Electrician Paul Lim, Power Mechanical Department in Oakland Shops. Valerie graduated from Castro Valley High School and is attending UCLA as a Biology major.

While in high school, she excelled in athletics, including cross-country, track and basketball, and community service, says Paul. Now, she concentrates on her studies, attends church and sees many of her church friends from the Bay Area. "The scholarship is very helpful, especially with books and tuition," says Paul. She has plans to pursue a career in optometry. "I'm glad she received the scholarship because she worked very hard; I'm proud of her." Valerie also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the UPE/SEIU Local 790 COPE/Herbert B. Lofton/Barbara W. Lawson Leadership Award, as the East Bay recipient of that award.

*The recipients were selected from a field of ten candidates, and received the award based on the BART employee's length of service, the student's GPA and rank in their class, and a character report, including letters of recommendation from teachers and community leaders. b*

**BART employees achieving 20 years of service recently include (left to right): Theodore Gonzales, Rachel Heath and Benjamin Delgado.**



# "Her Happiness is Contagious"

Imagine someone who is always perky, has a kind word for strangers, and has a positive outlook on life. When you're near her, her "nice" just can't help but rub off.

That person is Station Agent Patsy Atwood, who lends a smile and a helping hand to customers at the Coliseum BART Station in Oakland.

Station Agent Kimberly Mahoney works with Patsy and has known her for two years. "She's always willing to help, always in a good mood," says Kimberly.

"She has helped me to have a better attitude and deal with people," adds her co-worker, who says Patsy gets her goodness from her faith. "She prays before work" for guidance, notes Kimberly, who says "when things get tough, I talk to her and figure out the positive thing to do."

With the more difficult customers, like those who are anxious about making flights at the Oakland International Airport, "Patsy just tells them to calm down, they'll make

the next shuttle; she does it with the same sweet personality she has with all the other customers. You never see her angry or upset."

Patsy is "one of our super agents," says Al Quintana, L-Line Supervisor. Her customer service skills and positive attitude recently earned her a commendation from Al and Rocky Green, assistant Chief Transportation Officer for the A/L Lines. She is "infectiously good natured," says Al and a "positive influence on others."

"She really is wonderful," adds fellow Station Agent Jim Roth, who also works with Patsy at the Oakland Coliseum BART Station. "Patsy is a genuinely nice person and someone who you don't mind going the extra mile for. She is kind and considerate to all."

"Patsy treats everyone as she wants to be treated," says Jim. "Her 'nice' rubs off on you." 



## Additional Emergency Center Provides Off-Site Locale to Manage BART

BART kept running eight years ago after the Loma Prieta Earthquake on October 17, 1989 shut down the Bay Bridge and sent some commuters onto BART for the first time. With no damage to the system, BART achieved its shining moment in crisis response.

BART crews who worked in the aftermath of that disaster, did it from BART's then central operations center. Today's state-of-the-art Operations Control Center is the transit system's heart and soul. But in another emergency, such as a severe earthquake or fire, is it wise to centralize all operations in one place?

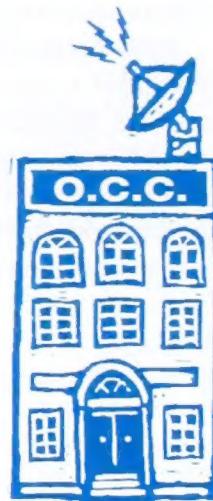
"We took a look at that potential situation and decided a back-up emergency operations center was in order," said Rolf Sabye, assistant to the Group Manager, Engineering. A room in the basement at MTC had been used to test the new equipment for OCC. It became the logical choice to create a satellite operations center that could be activated on a moment's notice to become an adjunct to OCC or replace it if necessary. "We have responded to emergencies in the past," noted Rolf. "Now, we can respond better."

BART's new Emergency

Operations Center was modeled after those used by counties and the Port Authority. It is equipped with portable radios, tele-

phones, television and video capabilities, antennae, cabling, radio monitoring capabilities to OCC, and office furniture for a crew of about ten. "We have a real-time projection system that allows us to view the entire system on the wall in a much more compact manner than in OCC," he noted. "In an emergency situation, this center will be essential." The EOC would become the primary area to coordinate communications, through MTC, with counties, emergency relief agencies and other transit agencies. It would also be the main site to coordinate, manage and provide mitigation planning for all Level II emergencies, such as a moderate earthquake or severe winter storm, and Level III emergencies, considered to be catastrophic events like major earthquakes, widespread civil unrest or widespread flooding.

"We have gone through some 'table top' exercises with MTC to talk ourselves through how the center would operate and the issues we would confront," said Rolf. At some future date, an emergency drill will be staged with BART and other agencies, including MTC, to rehearse how the center would be used to respond in an emergency situation. 



# Great Pumpkin Contest a 'Hole in One'

**P**retty pumpkins and a putting contest? Yes! To celebrate Halloween, BART employees decorated pumpkins and took their chance in a putting contest on Halloween Day, Friday, October 31. The pumpkin judging and putting contest were held in the LMA Lobby, which was decorated with fall leaves, corn stalks, raffia bows, hay and scarecrows ready to tee off.

The event was organized by Victoria Palmer, who has also organized BART's golf tournaments. An avid golfer, Vicky just couldn't let a chance to golf pass her by, not even for ghouls and goblins!

## The Great Pumpkin

Decorating Contest called for decorating the squashes with a golf theme. While 56 pumpkins were submitted by the mid-October deadline, only 20 were left to judge on Halloween Day. (They just didn't store well.) Judges Mike Healy, Jim McHenry and Dean Leonard lined up the survivors and decided the scariest, cutest, and most creative golf-themed pumpkins.

Congratulations to four winners: First Place went to Maria Fletes, whose "Caddy Shack and Golfer" pumpkin won her a free entry and dinner to BART's Fourth Annual Golf Tournament next April 26 at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Second Place went to Alice Wong for her Pumpkin Ridge Lady Golfer hitting a ball to the Moon; she won golf for two at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Third Place winner Robe Poblete created a spider pumpkin to win free golf lessons with a golf pro, while Fourth Place was a tie between James Ginsbach's big-tooth grinning pumpkin and the "screaming golfer" pumpkin by Annalee Jimenez; both win a set of golf balls.

"Everyone who entered the pumpkin contest was very creative," said Vicky. One of the more intricate entries was from Train Operator John Schexnayder, who carved a BART building and a BART train, with a lady on top hold-

ing a golf club. Carlos Campos decorated his pumpkin with a 19th hole Flag and the expressions of three golfers — "Water in the Hole, Boo!" "Hole in One, Oy, Boy!" and "Triple Bogie, GRR!" Greg Wilkie's pumpkin had a tiger's face and was appropriate titled, "Tiger Woods." Vicky Palmer's pumpkin looked like a golf cart, a white pumpkin painted with gold and decorated with emeralds, rubies and sapphire stones in the golf bag. Pat Patubo created a "scarecrow" pumpkin.

BART employees were also treated to refreshments and a magic show by Train Operator Greg Wilkie and his wife, Cathy. "He is a master at creating spell-binding illusions with just the right touch of humor and mystery," says Vicky, noting that the Wilkies have performed around the world.

After the pumpkin judging, 32 BART employees tried their hand at putting a ball from the middle of the spiral staircase into a waiting putting

green on the floor. Rolly Naish oversaw the event, dressed in a turkey costume. With five putts, Morris Martin won a dinner for two at John's Grill. Harley Goldstrom came in second with six putts, followed by Dave Kutrosky and R. Thomas, each with seven putts, and Dean Leonard and Mike Moran, each with eight putts. The highest putter was Gail Moses with 23 attempts, followed by Phil Ormsbee with 21 tries.

Of course, an entertaining event like this does not happen without the dedicated efforts of several volunteers. Thanks to Nancy Morgan and Bill Richards, who helped Vicky Palmer decorate the Lobby. Thanks also to Pat Patubo, Bill Farr, Alice Wong, Hyo Kim, Reiko Merritt-Crenshaw, Riba Alexander, Sherry Ross and Romy Vergara for helping with other details. Special thanks to Greg and Cathy Wilkie for their magical entertainment; to Rolly Naish for helping to chair the event; and to judges Mike Healy, Jim McHenry and Dean Leonard. **b**



Pictured left to right: Cathy and Greg Wilkie, who provided their magical entertainment; and event coordinator Victoria Palmer.



## Second Vendor Faire a Success

BART buyers recently held their second Vendor Faire to recruit new vendors to BART's purchasing program, as a follow up to the first fair held last April, which drew about 60 vendors.

At the faire held October 13, about 175 potential vendors attended to get on bidders lists and otherwise get involved in BART's purchasing program, according to Karl Schonian, procurement technician. "We advertised in newspapers reaching the minority communities, and our turn out was significantly greater among potential DBE vendors," he said. "We consider this Vendor's Faire a complete success."

The department is always looking for new and additional vendors to broaden its base of potential bidders, notes Karl. Since BART usually accepts low bids on purchasing contracts, "we want to expand the vendor base as widely as possible," he said.

The department hopes other departments will want to meet with potential vendors, such as engineering, at the next outreach to new vendors. Karl said the next Vendor's Faire is tentatively scheduled for February 1998. **b**

## Give Blood... Save A Life

Just under 40 people donated blood to the Alameda-Contra Costa Blood Bank during the blood drive held for employees of BART, MTC and ABAG on October 14. "This helps, but there is always a greater need in the community," says Dina Ferrari of BART Employee Services, noting that the blood bank requires an extensive supply of blood to sustain emergency needs.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Blood Bank makes whole blood and blood components available to benefit disaster victims, those requiring blood transfusions and those with blood disease.

"The blood banks and hospitals are supposed to have a three-day supply at any given time to meet the needs of a disaster or emergency," says Dina. "They usually only have a one or two-day supply. This means the community blood supply does not meet the potential need."

A drive last April drew about 30 employees. "We need 70 to 80 to really make it a decent blood drive," said Dina. The blood bank plans its next blood drive on Tuesday, January 13 in the Metro Auditorium, MTC Building from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "It only takes from 20 to 30 minutes to give," says Dina. "Celebrate the New Year by donating blood."

Anyone with questions concerning the blood drive may call Dina at 464-6226. **b**

## EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS



BART employees help increase efficiency and save costs by presenting their ideas for improving BART to the Employee Suggestion Program. They are duly rewarded for their proposals. Here are recent awardees and their ideas:

### Richard Golden

Senior Engineer, Capital Project Control Department:

Telecommuting was costing BART employees phone charges until Richard Golden came up with the idea for an 800 number. Previously, employees with the proper software could access the Word Perfect system at BART from their home computers. But many incurred toll charges since the call to go on line was a long distance call. Richard suggested installing a toll-free 800 number just for BART employees to use from their home personal computers. The Maintenance and Engineering Department agreed this would be an efficient means to accomplish access and installed the line. Richard received a \$150 customer service award.

### Dan Swanson

Employee Development Specialist, Operations Training & Development:

Once new ATC speed sensor replacements are installed, they are checked for phase and amplitude in the truck bay and shops area. Dan Swanson fabricated a test tool for the ATC speed sensors that — when used with a fixed connector — allowed the technician to check tachometers with ease of use and minimal error. Even though there was another method to check speed sensors, this new tester allowed for easier hook-up, thereby saving time and \$26,335 in labor hours over five years. Dan received an efficiency savings award of \$2,633.

# Interns Offer Their Thoughts on Working at BART

**T**wo students who interned last Summer on the A/L Line offered their thoughts on working at BART at the conclusion of the program. Both came to BART from the Southern Alameda Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP). Here are excerpts from their papers submitted to Dick Kalman, senior administrative analyst for the A/L Line.

## Tahmina Hamid

James Logan High School:

Tahmina has worked in other assignments through the SYETP, and said she didn't enjoy the other jobs as much as her job this past Summer at BART. "If I knew that SYETP was providing a job like the BART system," she said, "I would (have) picked it many years ago."

"Communication is key to this job," said Tahmina. "You meet a lot of new people ... they are very nice and they help you in any way." Tahmina got to travel around to many stations along the A/L Line. "Experiencing the BART system for the first time was hard for me... I got lost a couple of times but quickly found my way back." Among other things, she learned how to read a BART ticket and the station monitors. "I wrote down the signs of the elevators (that) were temporarily out of order" and did a lot of delivery between Lake Merritt and Hayward. "One of the easiest jobs... was helping with Lost and Found; we updated the losses and I learned how to take messages on the Lost and Found messenger. We typed all the records in the computer for backup. It was a very wonderful and a new experience for me."

As to working in the station agent booths, Tahmina said, "It was kind of hard dealing with some of the patrons at the stations, but I hanged with it and kept up the positive attitude; that was very hard for me." And working with Palwasha to stamp 3,000 flash passes for a game at the Oakland Coliseum "sure put bruises on our hands." Tahmina also said she's consider a career as a police officer and says "I would love to be a BART Police (officer)." Finally, she said she appreciated the summer job at BART "because now I know what I want to do after college."

BART employees who recently achieved 15 years with the District include (left to right): Robert Amor, Eldridge Johns, Judge Purifoy, Carolyn Pope-Chappel, Timothy McCracken, Arminta Thornton, Donny Woo, Gregory Price, Alexis Leiva, Cris Abel and Gerald Mack.



## Palwasha Mohammadi

American High School

Palwasha worked in the A/L Line office, providing administrative assistance by stocking brochures, organizing storage rooms, using the computer and "learning how to become a responsible and reliable employee," she says.



"I got a chance to meet and work with some great employees at BART, including station agents, janitors, supervisors and people in Lost and Found. While working in the Station Agent booth I learned that station agents have a very difficult job because they have to deal with a lot of stressful problems. I got a chance to meet a lot of wonderful agents, like Felix, Patsy, Linda and Luther; I learned a lot from station agents just by watching them do their jobs.

"In Lost and Found, I learned about everything that happens to items that BART passengers lose. I also enjoyed delivering mail and packages to all the different stations on the A-Line. I had the best time working in the Hayward BART A Line office; it (was) a great experience I will never forget.

Thanks to Dick Kalman for being "an absolutely great boss" and "a fun person" (according to both students). He even made a bleary-eyed high school student like getting up at 6 a.m. and coming to work!! Congratulations, Dick!



# BART Employees Show 'Gift of Giving'

In the January 1998 issue of BARTalk, we're planning an article on how BART employees participated in charitable and other programs to help needy families during the Holiday Season.

If you have a story to share, please contact Vicki Wills, Editor, BARTalk, at extension 7115, e-mail to "vwills@pacbell.net" or via mail to 800 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

Please submit your story ideas by December 30.

## Call the 24 Hour Job Hotline



## For Computer Help, Call 7208

Computer users in need of assistance are reminded to call the Help Desk Hotline, which is on extension 7208. Help Desk activities are structured around the Help Call database system, which records vital information about each request, allowing Computer Support to allocate resources and track call progress. Stopping a Computer Support Coordinator in the hallway will not get you the same service as calling the Help Desk Hotline. So, please remember, requests for service must come through the hotline at extension 7208. 



### For Sale!

Heavy-duty car trailer. Excellent condition. \$1200.00 or B/O. Call Dana at 510/481-1946 or Pager at 510/310-9670.

### Antique Piano For Sale!

Kranich & Bach Cabinet Grand upright piano – walnut burl veneer, ivory keys, dates to around 1920. \$1,500 or b/o. Call Mike at ext. 6337 or 510/522-6853.

### Townhome For Sale!

2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhome, one-car attached garage, laundry room, fireplace, garden window, all new light oak cabinets thru out, new tile counter tops, light & bright thru out, completely remodeled (\$22,000 worth of remodeling free), like brand new, 1250 sq. ft. Only \$120,000. Lease/Option to buy w/monthly credit of \$350 toward closing or down. Call Carol at ext. 6125 or after 6 p.m. at 510/237-4738.

### Cabin For Rent

Two blocks to private beach & horse area (paddle & row boats, slide off dock). Nearby lakes for boating, fishing and river rafting. Historic parks and caves nearby. Snow ski in winter. Fully equipped, sleeps 8. \$150/weekend, \$50/weekday, \$300/week. Call Sue at ext. 2518 or 828-4636.

*Spring cleaning? Time to clean out those drawers, closets and garages! BARTalk's Trash and Treasures column offers you an opportunity to pick up some extra cash for those unwanted items you no longer need. Send your ads—no telephone calls—to Trash & Treasures, BARTalk, LMA-1 or Fax to 464-7118.*

## BARTalk

800 Madison Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

A publication for and about the employees of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

**Special Note:** Editors reserve the right to edit, revise, reduce or discard any materials submitted for publication. Any material appearing in this publication may be reproduced with appropriate credit.

Printed on recycled paper 

Thomas E. Margro  
General Manager

Mike Healy  
Department Manager,  
Media & Public Affairs

Vicki L. Wills  
Editor, BARTalk